

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1 of the English language translation of the specification, please add the following heading before the first full paragraph to appear as follows:

Technical Field

On page 1 of the English Language translation of the specification, please amend the first full paragraph of the specification to appear as follows:

The present invention relates to a micro-filter device ~~as defined in the preamble of claim 4 and to a method for designing the same as defined by claim 1~~ in which, at different flows of fluid through the device, different pressure differences over the device are allowed, and a method of designing such a mirco-filter device.

On page 1 of the English language translation of the specification, please add the following heading between the first and second full paragraphs to appear as follows:

Background

On page 1 of the English Language translation of the specification, please amend the second full paragraph of the specification to appear as follows:

Such micro-filtering devices are generally known, e.g. from ~~the PCT patent publication WO-0107142~~ U.S. Patent No. 6,536,600 in the name of Applicant, and from SAE paper 2001-01-0867 "Automatic transmission hydraulic system cleanliness - the effects of operating conditions, measurement techniques and high efficiency filters", which document is hereby regarded included.

On page 1 of the English Language translation of the specification, please amend the third full paragraph of the specification to appear as follows:

Rather than conventional, so-called full flow filters which in fact rely on blocking particles through the provision of sufficiently small openings, and which therefore are surface based, and often of an expensive, synthetic type of material, the present micro-filter is cellulose ~~fi~~ber based. Such cellulose ~~fi~~ber based micro-filters rely on electrostatic forces for binding particles while on their way through the filter material. For this reason micro filters rely on a relatively thick body of filtering material through which fluid such as oil is to be passed, and within which a main part of the "filtering" effect takes place, at least for the smallest particles. At conventional filters on the other hand filtering solely takes place on the surface of the material, for which reason the latter is ~~maximised~~ maximized by using folded or pleated cardboard or other sheet material. Consequently conventional filters have a relatively low resistance, allow a relative large flow and may in principle be cleaned by reversing a flow of medium through the filter. Micro filters may bind very small particles within its filtering body – are therefore here denoted in-depth or in-body filters, but have a relatively large flow resistance and are not reusable by inverting flow of medium. Known micro filters therefore mostly if not always come in by-pass configuration rather than in an in-line configuration as for conventional full flow filters. Yet it is, for reason of a superior filtering grade, a technical aim to entirely replace conventional filters by micro-filters within an in-line configuration, i.e. preferably within an existing structure for a hydraulic flow path of a mechanical device to be lubricated. In principle such may easily be done on the basis of an ultra high efficiency feature of the micro-filter, which effects a cleaning of oil within a passing rate, which is only a fraction from that at conventional filters.

On page 1 and continuing on page 2 of the English Language translation of the specification, please amend the fourth full paragraph of the specification to appear as follows:

At replacement of full flow filters in existing designs however, i.e. in an in-line configuration instead of a dedicated by-pass circuit, a problem is encountered in that requirements as to allowable pressure differences in many automotive in-line filtering applications, conflict with the desirable pressure differences ~~at use of~~ used in micro-filters. In this respect the known micro-filter elements are less permeable at low oil temperatures for reason of increased viscosity of the oil. The latter circumstance demands for high pressure differences over a micro-filter device for letting through the oil. At the same time most of the systems in which a filter device is incorporated have a demand for very modest pressure differences, i.e. lower than what is demanded at normal operating temperatures. The same requirement for modest pressure difference

over a filter unit often exists at relatively modest flows of oil through the system. For coping with this problem with a micro-filter element, the latter would have to be chosen with small resistance to oil penetration, i.e. with relatively low density and/or thickness of the filtering material. At proceeding so, the problem exists that the high efficiency characteristic of the micro-filter is strongly reduced, possibly to the extent that the functional and thereby economical advantage of it is lost, at least to the extent that in-line application of the micro-filter is strongly hampered.

On page 2 of the English language translation of the specification, please add a heading between the first and second full paragraphs of the specification to appear as follows:

Summary Of The Invention

On page 2 of the English Language translation of the specification, please amend the second full paragraph and add a full paragraph after the second full paragraph of the specification to appear as follows:

According to the current invention such is ~~realised along the method steps of claim 1, and by a filtering device having the features as defined in the characterising portion of the first device claim~~ realized by a method of designing a micro-filter device including the steps of determining a minimum cross section of a restriction for allowing a minimum amount of fluid flow for bypassing a micro-filter element, determining a minimum cross section of the restriction to attain a given maximum pressure difference (P2) over the device at a lowest given amount of fluid flow through the device, and limiting the maximum pressure difference (Pd) to a maximum pressure difference (P1) given at a largest amount of fluid flow through the device by a pressure valve system opening at the maximum pressure difference and creating a second flow of oil by bypassing the micro-filter element once the maximum pressure difference (P1) has been reached.

The invention also provides a filtering device having a micro-filter, the axial end faces of which are substantially closed for passage of fluid by axial end face closure mechanisms. The device includes an orifice and a pressure valve system allowing a flow of fluid by-passing the micro-filter element.

On page 3 of the English Language translation of the specification, please amend the first full paragraph of the specification to appear as follows:

Where the mentioned by-pass flows may ~~ass~~ as well be provided in e.g. the housing of the filter device, they are according to the invention preferably provided as part of, or at least directly related to the filter element. According to a further preferred embodiment the orifice and valve means are preferably integrated into s single unit. ~~Favourable~~ Favorable use is further made of pressure means known per se for ~~pressurising~~ pressurizing an end closure means to an axial end face of the element, by using the latter for maintaining at least part of the valve system together. In this manner the valve system may at least partially ~~favourably~~ favorably be produced and provided in loose parts.

On page 3 of the English language translation of the specification, please add a heading between the first and second full paragraphs to appear as follows:

Brief Description Of The Drawings

On page 3 of the English language translation of the specification, please add a heading between the fourth and fifth full paragraphs to appear as follows:

Detailed Description Of The Drawings

On page 3 and continuing on page 4 of the English Language translation of the specification, please amend the eighth full paragraph of the specification to appear as follows:

The axial end faces of the element 7 are shaped flat and oriented perpendicular to the axis of the filter element. They are closed for passage of oil by so-called closure elements, which are of matching flattened shape. Such closure elements, in principle come loose, and are pressed against the respective element end face, such like closure

element 15 depicted in the example. At least one of such elements may however also be integrated in the filter housing, e.g. by the part enclosed by receiving rims 16 in the bottom lid part 3. Such closure elements and/or [[~]]parts are preferably provided with annular and concentrically disposed ribs, designed for axial penetration in the filter material 8, thus providing an additional filtering safety for in unexpected cases where e.g. through pressure shocks in a said hydraulic system, the filter might become axially somewhat dislocated.

On page 4 of the English Language translation of the specification, please amend the first full paragraph of the specification to appear as follows:

In the present and preferred example, the filter element 7 is pressed between the closure elements 15 and 5 via an elastically deformable means 17 such as a spring element, here embodied by a helical pressure spring. For positioning the latter the spring element 17 rests against the upper lid part 3 under presence of a location means such as the depicted dimple or recess 18 or such as a protrusion, which means preferably correspond in diameter with the outer respectively inner diameter of the elastically means 17. The latter in a corresponding manner rests against the closure element 15, in ~~each~~ this case via a loosely positioned central part 19, which is provided with a central bore 20, received by the main part of the closure element 15 in a positioning and receiving edge 21. In principle however, the parts 19 and 15 may be formed as a whole.

On page 4 and continuing on page 5 of the English Language translation of the specification, please amend the second full paragraph of the specification to appear as follows:

In connection with the central part 19 of the closure element 15, there is provided a pressure valve system 22 located in the interior space 14 of the filter element 7. It is in the present example supported by a rim 23, which in turn is supported by the closure element 15 via minor pillars. The valve system 22 further comprises a valve 25, which is supported, alternatively denoted urged towards the closure element, by an elastically deformable element 24, here in conformance with preference embodied by a helical pressure spring. In case of a helical spring the valve 25 is preferably provided with a projection or dimple corresponding to the inner or outer diameter of the pressure spring so as to promote stability of the valve 25. The latter, by means of a flat face, corresponds to that of the opposing face of the central part 19, so as to close the passage of oil by large quantities low oil pressure in the chamber 6 by contact with said central part 19. In the present embodiment a small passage is however provided from

chamber 6 to interior space 14 by means of a bore 26, located preferably centrally in the valve 25, which bore provides for a minimum of oil flow by-passing the filter element at all times. The bore 26, alternatively denoted orifice 26, ensures a constant pressure drop ([[~]]difference) over the filter device. In particular it does so independently from temperature.

On page 5 and continuing on page 6 of the English Language translation of the specification, please amend the first full paragraph of the specification to appear as follows:

Figure 2 illustrates a design problem, existing at applying micro-filters in an in-line configuration and underlying the current invention. It further illustrates a design method for designing a filter device in accordance with the example of figure 1. In many systems a maximum allowed pressure difference P1 is allowed over a filter device. This maximum difference is set for large flows of oil through the system, and consequently through the filter device. The maximum thus set may however not be favourable favorable for the operation of a micro-filter device. This requirement, which is often of no problem to full flow filters, can become even more disadvantageous by the fact that often at modest flows, a further, even lower allowed pressure difference P2 is often set. In this example P2 is in line with typical automotive values set at 100 mBar at low quantities of oil flow. These requirements to the filter device, and especially the latter, become all the more problematic to micro-filters at relatively low oil temperatures, i.e. as long as operating temperature, commonly about 90 degrees C has not been reached. The low viscosity of oil at low temperatures, combined with the relatively dense and thick layer of filtering material is due to this circumstance. So as to typify extreme cold circumstances, the exaggeration of a totally blocked filter element could be taken. For overcoming this problem it has in accordance with the invention been conceived to provide a by-pass ~~means~~ mechanism in the form of a bore 26 in an axial closure ~~means~~ mechanism 15 for the filter element. In this way, a minimum a minimum amount of oil may at all times by-pass the filter element. An advantage of this solution is that the flow of oil through a restriction is virtually temperature independent. Therefore, a small amount of flow remains small at relatively high operating temperatures. Should however, the amounts of flow through the filter device increase, the pressure difference over the bore 26 will increase quadratic with the velocity of flow. Thus care should be taken so as to make the bore 26 of such magnitude, that at a given value of large flow of oil, the pressure difference Pd, will not be more than allowed by P1. Such precaution would typically render, at a flow Fr through the bore – alternatively denoted restriction –, a flow Ff through the micro-filter 7 as indicated by curve Ff1. As mentioned previously, at increasing velocities the pressure difference Pd increase with the square of the velocity through the bore. Consequently the flow of oil Ff through the filter element increases with said velocity, which is reflected by curve Ff1, In the example provided by

the graph, at the amount of flow for which the pressure difference P1 is set, 400 mBar, this would render an actual flow of about ~~11,5 l/min~~ 11.5 l/min through the restriction 26, and ~~0,8 l/min~~ 0.8 l/min through the micro-filter 7 or a flow of ~~Ff=0,7 l/min~~ Ff=0.7 l/min at an oil flow Fr = 8 l/min through the bore 26. The solution might seem ideal in that also the second requirement of maximum pressure difference Pd = P2 is met for a given lower amount of flow of oil through. At this given low amount of flow the actual pressure difference Pd would, with the bore or restriction magnitude related to Fb1, only be 50 mBar. Thus a margin of 100% exists for this situation.

On page 6 of the English Language translation of the specification, please amend the first full paragraph of the specification to appear as follows:

Should on the other hand, the flow through the filter element 7 be optimised for the given lower amount of flow, i.e. at P2, in that a restriction of smaller diameter would have been provided, the pressure difference Pd over the filter device 1 would in accordance with flow curve Fb2, become double of what is allowed at the given large flow of P2. Therefore, in order to optimise the flow of oil through the micro-filter 7 in relation to the flow of oil through the conceived by-pass ~~means~~ mechanism for the filter element, it is in accordance with the invention further conceived to include in the by-pass ~~means~~ mechanism a pressure valve system 22, which opens at 400 mBar. This provision ensures that the requirement set by P1 will be met at all times, i.e. at all flows, as is illustrated by the dotted flow line Fv2, which at lower pressure differences follows curve Fb2. In line with the thus increased pressure difference Pd, the flow of oil through the by-pass filter is increased to ~~1,4 l/min~~ 1.4 l/min at maximum, as is illustrated by curve Ff2. In connection with the increased, in ~~case~~ this case largely doubled (up to Fr = 8 l/min) pressure difference over the restriction 26, the maximum flow of oil through filter elements is increased, in ~~case~~ fact doubled. It may also be noticed that the maximum flow Ff of oil through the filter element 7 is realised at much lower overall flows of oil through the device than in the case of a restriction only. ~~In case~~ Indeed, the maximum amount of flow of ~~1,4 l/min~~ 1.4 l/min through the micro-filter is in this example already reached at about 8 l/min instead of at about ~~11,5 l/min~~ 11.5 l/min, as would have been the case in the situation where the micro-filter device would have been adapted to the requirements solely by the use of a restriction.